

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, LE, US

SUBJECT: U.S. POSITION RE LEBANESE CRISIS

1. FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFO ARE PERTINENT EXCERPTS FROM OCTOBER 30 DEPARTMENTAL PRESS BRIEFING IN WHICH DEPT SPOKESMAN OUTLINED U.S. VIEWS RE SITUATION IN LEBANON:

A. (IN RESPONSE TO SERIES OF QUESTIONS.) AS OF TODAY, I STILL DO NOT SEE THE LIKELIHOOD OF OUTSIDE INTERVENTION, AND WE OBVIOUSLY WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE ANY SUCH INTERVENTION TAKE PLACE. AND I MIGHT ADD HERE ON LEBANON, BECAUSE YESTERDAY YOU ASKED ME ABOUT WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO TO HELP THEM WITH REGARD TO THE CURRENT SITUATION, AND THE LEBANESE PROBLEM, OF COURSE, IS FUNDAMENTALLY, AS I THINK I INDICATED YESTERDAY, AN INTERNAL LEBANESE ONE, AND THERE ARE VERY CLEAR LIMITS ON THE HELP THAT CAN BE GIVEN BY ANOTHER GOVERNMENT. BUT, AS I SAID YESTERDAY, AND EARLIER TODAY, WE HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY CONSULTING WITH

OTHER GOVERNMENTS WHO SHARE OUR CONCERN AND AS TO WHAT WE AND THEY CAN DO TO HELP.

Q. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU A RELATED QUESTION ON THAT. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON IS UP BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE TODAY, AND I WOULD LIKE TO RE-ASK THE STATE OF THE U.S. CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION IN LEBANON. IS THERE INCREASED ANXIETY TODAY? HAS THE SITUATION ABATED? WHAT IS THE U.S. TEMPERATURE ON THIS SITUATION IN LEBANON?

A. OBVIOUSLY, MURREY, WE REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION THERE. AS YOU KNOW, ANOTHER CEASE-FIRE WAS ANNOUNCED THERE THIS MORNING. SOME FIRING IS CONTINUING, AND ONLY TIME WILL TELL IF THIS LATEST CEASE-FIRE WILL TAKE HOLD. WE OBVIOUSLY WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE FIGHTING END, AND A PROCESS OF POLITICAL COMPROMISE, IF YOU WILL, AND ACCOMMODATION TAKE PLACE. AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT ALL THE FACTIONS THERE WOULD SHOW THE MODERATION AND SPIRIT
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OF COMPROMISE THAT WOULD SEEM TO BE NECESSARY IF AN END TO THE VIOLENCE AND A NEW BASIS FOR STABILITY IS TO BE FOUND. AND OUR OBJECTIVE, AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE HERE, IS TO SEE THAT A SOLUTION WILL PRESERVE--AND YOU HAVE HEARD THESE WORDS MANY TIMES BEFORE--THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON AND ITS NATIONAL UNITY AND COHESION.

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